

REMARKS

The present application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 20, 2003. Claims 20, 26, 36, 39-41, 44, and 45 are presented for examination, each of which has been amended as to matters of form and/or to define Applicants' invention more clearly. Claims 20 and 26 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action states that Claims 20, 26, 36, 39, 40, 41, 44, and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,567,177 (Matsuyama). Applicants submit that independent Claims 20 and 26, together with the claims dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct from Matsuyama for at least the following reasons.

An aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 20 is directed to a communication system that includes a source node, one or more destination nodes, and a controller. Each of the one or more destination nodes includes a receiving buffer, and the controller is adapted to set a logical connection between the source node and the one or more destination nodes.

The source node is adapted to transfer segment data with address information relating to a portion of the receiving buffer to each of the one or more destination nodes via the logical connection. Each of the one or more destination nodes is adapted to store the segment data in the receiving buffer, and each of the one or more destination nodes is adapted to notify information about a size of the receiving buffer to the source node via the logical connection after a preparation for receiving the segment data is completed.

Matsuyama relates to a printing system that reduces the data-transfer load of a network to which the system belongs. Figs. 27 and 28 of Matsuyama discloses that a client

obtains a file size of a selected image file to be transmitted to an image server. This, however, is not believed to be equivalent to or suggestive of transferring segment data with address information relating to a portion of a receiving buffer of a destination node to the destination node..

That is, nothing in Matsuyama is believed to teach or suggest a communication system in which "the source node is adapted to transfer segment data with address information relating to a portion of the receiving buffer to each of the one or more destination nodes via the logical connection," and "each of the one or more destination nodes is adapted to store the segment data in the receiving buffer," and "each of the one or more destination nodes is adapted to notify information about a size of the receiving buffer to the source node via the logical connection after a preparation for receiving the segment data is completed," as recited in Claim 20.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 20 is not anticipated by Matsuyama and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Independent Claim 26 includes a feature similar to that discussed above, in which segment data with address information relating to a portion of a receiving buffer is transferred to a destination node corresponding to the receiving buffer. Therefore, Claim 26 also is believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above.

The present Amendment After Final Action is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance. Therefore, its entry is believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues

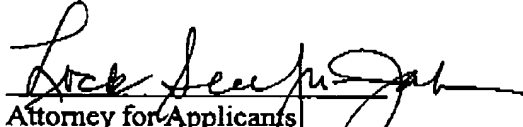
remain outstanding, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

No petition to extend the time for response to the Office Action is deemed necessary for the present Amendment. If, however, such a petition is required to make this Amendment timely filed, then this paper should be considered such a petition and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite petition fee to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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